



Ryedale Woodturners

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Midlands Woodturning Show, Newark: report

A report from Geoff on his impressions

Several of our members attended the Midlands Woodworking Show at Newark Showground on 7th & 8th March. This annual event was well attended with the stalls and demonstrations more spaced-out so less tightly-packed than at Harrogate. Newark is 'Harrogate by any other name' with more-or-less the same stalls, exhibitors and demonstrators. As with Harrogate, there are bargains to be had, including sensibly priced native and exotic wood and the usual 'show specials'. (I managed to pick up a lovely piece of anjam (aka Indian Blackwood) - a wood I'd not come across before.) Parking at Newark is excellent, far better than at Harrogate, and the opportunity to buy discounted tickets on-line also allows fast-track entry to the event.

Pictured with my fellow traveller Martyn is 2023 Channel 4 Woodworker of the Year Nathaneal Griffiths. Nathaneal, who won this prestigious award age 18, now works for Chestnut Products from whom we buy finishing items for sale from the club shop. Later in the year Nathaneal has agreed to present a special evening session on 'finishing' exclusively for our club. Look out for details.



Several nationally recognised turners who have recently visited our club were there including Margaret Garrard, Paul Hannaby and 'Tiny Turner' Emma Cooke. Keith Gardam had told me in advance not to miss the food outlet which sells a range of excellent meals and snacks at more than 50% below Harrogate prices. Good reason alone to add Newark to your 2026 diary. The all-day breakfast roll at £5 (any 3 of bacon, Lincolnshire sausage, mushrooms, tomatoes and fried egg) is hard to beat! Great recommendation Keith!

Sledmere House Spring Fair Sunday 4 – Monday 5 May

Carolyn Williams, The Fair Organiser at Sledmere contacted me to see if we could offer some woodturning for their event. She says:

The Spring Fair is a new Fair to be held at Sledmere and will showcase the best of local, vintage, gift and craft makers. As well as stalls, the space will also encompass entertainment, demos, food and drink. Sledmere will also be open for visitors to explore the Parkland, Gardens, Rare Breed Farm Park, House and Retail Outlets on the day, at a discounted price.

Various options are available. She is looking for someone to demonstrate woodturning for "20 to 30 minutes", or more, as part of an itinerary of 3 or 4 craft demonstrations each day. We might do one or two slots on one or both days, to suit us. The Club could provide a portable lathe if needed (probably one of our 4 Coronet Heralds).

She is also offering a sales pitch for £50 for the 2 days. I am not clear whether this is inside or outside, but will investigate further.

I don't think I am available that weekend (family commitments) and I appreciate this is the weekend after our club sale, but it would be good if someone could represent us in some way at this new event. I assume a demonstrator (plus assistant) would get free entry to the house and grounds. Please [let me know](#) if you think you can help.

Spring Exhibition and Sale

Another reminder that we are trying a spring sale this year: **Saturday 26 – Sunday 27 April**, at the Hill Institute, Thornton le Dale. Offers to help out for even an hour or two on either day will be very gratefully received. Please contact [John Whiteley](#), or let him know at the April meeting if you can help (earlier preferred). And do get some pieces turned for sale!

Chestnut Products order

Final call for any requests. Have a look at [Chestnut Products - First for Finishes | Finishing Products](#)

Indexing fix and another search

Keith G and I visited the Hall last week to fix the indexing lock on the club lathe – you will remember Dan Smith having difficulties with it wobbling and not locking. A 5-minute job, at least it would have been if Nova had used the same fastening screws as on my lathe, but no, they had to use Philips screws whereas mine has hex, leaving me incorrectly prepared. The result being a 20 minute drive to Geoff's in Ebberston to borrow a screwdriver, one of the few tools Keith and I did not take!

We also had another look through every box and cupboard in the hall, searching for the **missing chuck**. No success. Please members, have a think on any possible leads as to its whereabouts, and if you had a toolbox or bag at the January meeting, have a check inside to make sure it hasn't been accidentally misplaced by someone clearing up.

3 April meeting – Dan Fearnley

Our next meeting will be a demonstration of making a four-legged Windsor style child's stool with pyrography and some colouring, something we regularly make at [oldfern](#) as a christening or birthday gift. This will involve spindle and faceplate turning with discussion of chucking methods, repetition and the exact reproduction of sizes, use of templates and design theory and proportions. Drilling at an angle will be covered, and a cartoon image will be transferred onto the seat, pyrographed and coloured. Images of previous work will be shown on screen to enhance the "live" work.

Gallery

Four stools previously made for [oldfern](#) customers by Dan.



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